



DAVID SANDERS, PH.D.  
Director

June 8, 2004

**County of Los Angeles**  
**DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES**  
425 Shatto Place -- Los Angeles, California 90020  
(213) 351-5602

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To: Supervisor Don Knabe, Chairman  
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From: David Sanders, Ph.D.  
Director

**MARCH 23, 2004, BOARD AGENDA ITEM # 12: EXPANDED CO-LOCATION WITH  
LAW ENFORCEMENT**

On March 23, 2004, your Board instructed the Department to report back in 90 days regarding the progress and feasibility of co-location of staff with the Lakewood Sheriff's Station, Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD), the Long Beach Police Department and various law enforcement agencies, as has been developed with the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department.

I am pleased to provide this status report regarding the Department's efforts to consolidate a collaborative relationship with the Los Angeles Police Department and independent law enforcement agencies in Los Angeles County. There have been considerable strides made to determine that in fact it is feasible and a logical direction for the Department to move to co-locate Children's Social Workers (CSWs) in law enforcement agencies. We believe that it will significantly improve the quality and accuracy of our investigations and potentially improve success in prosecution of perpetrators. We have explored several primary factors essential to the success of our ability to move forward with this endeavor.

**INTEREST AMONG LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES**

Law enforcement agencies Countywide have expressed their commitment and interest to the success of this collaboration. Our Law Enforcement Liaison has met with more than 25 law enforcement jurisdictions throughout the County.

Several of our Regional Administrators have also engaged jurisdictional law enforcement agencies within their respective Service Planning Areas to discuss co-location. To date, tentative agreements have been made with:

- Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) to co-locate at least 13 CSWs;
- Los Angeles Sheriff's Department (LASD):
  - Antelope Valley, Carson, Century, Compton, East LA, Industry, Lakewood, Temple City
- Independent Law Enforcement Agencies:
  - Arcadia, Azusa, Baldwin Park, El Monte, Gardenia, Hawthorne, Pasadena, Santa Monica, Long Beach, Monterey Park

#### **DONATED SPACE AGREEMENT**

The Office of the Chief Administrative Officer developed a donated space agreement to be reviewed and approved by LAPD, the Long Beach City Police, and other independent law enforcement jurisdictions. County Counsel is in the process of revising a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for Los Angeles County Sheriff's, as the Sheriff's do not need a space agreement, as they are part of the County family. Anticipated approval of the space agreements and the MOU will be within the next 60 days.

#### **TECHNOLOGICAL AND LEGAL CONCERNS**

On May 25, 2004, the DCFS and the Los Angeles Police Department met regarding the technological needs and challenges to co-locate staff. Our Information Technology Service (ITS) Bureau will conduct a site assessment to determine the appropriate telecommunication needs. Upon this determination, and pending the signed agreements, our tentative target date for full implementation will be by the end of the calendar year. Legal issues, such as confidentiality, for both DCFS and law enforcement agencies are being discussed.

The Department looks forward to a continued successful working relationship with our law enforcement partners to improve and address child abuse and neglect allegations while providing an improved response to children in custody.

If you have any questions, please call me or your staff may contact Helen Berberian, Board Relations Manager, at (213) 351-5530.

DS:RC:EM:tg

c: Chief Administrative Officer  
County Counsel  
Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors